

ATTENTION

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552); Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a); and/or Litigation.

☒ FOIA/PA☐ Litigation☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester: _____

Subject: _____

Computer or Case Identification Number: _____

Title of Case: _____ Section _____

* File _____

Serials Reviewed: _____

Release Location: *File _____ Section _____

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File Number: 62-HQ-44327 Section 1Serial(s) Reviewed: all

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: 918504

File Number: _____ Section _____

Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: _____

File Number: _____ Section _____

Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: _____

THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED.

SCANNED BY DocLab (RMD)

DATE: 5-16-06

ATTENTION

LAST SERIAL: 9 DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 25, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Predicated upon a telephonic request of Congressman Woodrum, that an Agent contact Senator Barkley for information concerning a situation which the Congressman and the Senator believed was in violation of some existing statute, Agent [redacted] contacted Senator Barkley and obtained an affidavit executed by Frank Van Hook, a photostatic copy of which is attached hereto. A review of this affidavit failed to disclose information concerning a violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's investigative jurisdiction, and subsequently the original affidavit was returned to Senator Barkley. Agent [redacted] ascertained that Senator Barkley had originally obtained this affidavit from Senator Bailey.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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b7C

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 22 1936

62-44327-1	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 19 1936 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
NATHAN TOLSON	FILE

City of Washington

ss.

District of Columbia

I, Frank Van Hook, a resident of the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, being duly sworn, do hereby affirm and solemnly swear:

1. That on or about the fifteenth day of December 1934, I was engaged as messenger in the National Archives and have served in that capacity ever since and am now engaged in the same capacity.
2. That during the early period of my employment in Archives the personnel consisted of Dr. Connor, Mr. Harris, Miss O'Neill, Miss Nichols and myself. Dr. Connor was engaged in determining policies of the Archives department and Mr. Harris concerned himself with applications for positions.
3. That on or about January 1, 1935 Mr. Hyde was appointed special assistant to Dr. Connor and about one week later, Mr. Bradley was appointed in charge of motion picture work.
4. That from the time of my appointment, I have acted as messenger for Dr. Connor and Mr. Hyde and have served them both in this capacity not only for the duties of Archives but also for their private service.
5. That on frequent occasions during the time of my employment I have been requested to serve Dr. Connor and Mr. Harris and the other executives of Archives at their poker parties held in the city of Washington and at places in Virginia. That on these occasions much liquor was consumed, so that at times it was necessary to take them to their homes and at times put various members to bed because they were too intoxicated to take care of themselves.
6. That on the occasion of these parties there was much talk about the appointments to be made in Archives and various persons whose applications were on file were freely discussed and comments freely made about who would be selected for positions and who would not.
7. That during the months of February and March 1935 I was often required to report at Mr. Harris' office which was then in the Justice Building at extremely early hours. I have been required to report there as early as 5.00 a.m. on at least a dozen occasions. There I would receive a package sealed with sealing wax which I would take to the office of Congressman Woodrum and deliver to him before 6.00 a.m.
8. That during these months and for some time afterward Mr. Woodrum spent a great part of every day at the office of Archives in the Justice Building.

9. That all matters of personnel were handled in Archives by Mr. Harris, under the direction of Congressman Woodrum. That all applications were separated into groups according to geographical position of the residence of the applicant. That some of these groups were discarded without further consideration.

10. That all persons whose applications stated any experience as "Investigator" were considered undesirable for positions in Archives and their applications also "filed" without further examination. That remarks were made at different times about certain people being "westerners" and therefore not to be considered for positions.

11. That persons eligible for consideration for positions in Archives had to furnish endorsements from either Senator Bailey or Congressman Woodrum. Even White House endorsements were laughed at and ignored.

12. That conversations have been carried on in my presence indicating that Senator Bailey and Congressman Woodrum were manipulating appointments in Archives for the purpose of building political strength for themselves. That Senator Bailey was working through Dr. Connor, and Congressman Woodrum was working through Mr. Harris. Each one had hopes of building up sufficient strength to be the "dark horse" candidate against President Roosevelt in the 1936 convention.

13. That recent conversations in my presence have indicated their decision to "play along" with the President this year, although they openly scorn him, with the expectation that they can further build their strength to a possible Presidential nomination in 1940. And each one is trying to outsmart the other and both using the power of appointment in Archives to exchange for votes and other favors in Congress.

14. That any Senator or Congressman who refuses to vote as Senator Bailey or Congressman Woodrum desire can have no patronage in Archives.

15. That Mr. Thad Page spends part of almost every week in North Carolina on political business for the Senator. That during the time when Senator Bailey was attacking the AAA program of the Administration, I was present at a party which was attended by the Senator and officials of Archives. On this occasion Senator Bailey said that it cost him \$18,000 to "fix things in North Carolina". Mr. Page answered "You know I did my part, and I'll go down there any time for you." In this conversation Page also said "Damn the Administration."

16. That during the time that I have been employed at Archives I have banked money for Dr. Connor, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Page. That in addition to the salary checks which I deposit for them, I also deposit at various times to their various accounts in Washington banks large sums of cash.

17. That at first I deposited only their regular government pay-check each pay-day. But after three months they gave me extra money in the form of cash to deposit for them. That Dr. Connor has ~~given~~ ^{given} me \$200 in cash to deposit in his wife's account each ~~pay-day~~, and from 200 to 250 dollars in cash to deposit in his own account each pay-day in addition to his pay-check.

18. That I deposit for Mr. Hyde from \$500 to \$700 per month in cash in addition to his pay-check.

19. That I deposit for Mr. Page from \$400 to \$500 in cash per month in addition to his pay-check.

20. That I deposit for Mr. Buck from \$400 to \$500 in cash per month in addition to his pay-check.

21. That some of these deposits are made within a day or two after regular government pay-days and other large deposits are made approximately half-way between pay-days.

22. That girls seeking employment in Archives have to submit to the men executives in order to obtain positions. That some girls have to submit not only to one man, but to several before they receive their appointments. That some girls have refused and have been denied positions. That others have submitted in the hope of a promised position but did not receive the position.

23. That various officers of Archives have had improper relations with girls on the premises and during these periods I have been assigned to duty to guard the door against all persons. That directly after these visits I have been called in to remove certain physical evidences of what has transpired in the rooms.

24. That these occasions have been numerous. That they occurred in Mr. Harris' office in the Justice Building at least seven times, and they have occurred in Dr. Connor's office and other offices in the Archives Building many times. That Mr. Thad Page is intoxicated a great part of the time and that when he has his visits with girls, Mr. Preston watches the door for him.

25. That many hundreds of towels have disappeared from these offices during the past year. That 1000 towels have been purchased for a staff of 130 people and there is a constant shortage.

25. That one girl employed as a secretary was known to have relations with Mr. Harris and Mr. Bledsoe as well as Dr. Connor. At one time it was necessary for her to have an illegal operation performed and the men were in doubt as to whom to blame for her condition. They eventually blamed Dr. Connor. She stayed at home three weeks and since that time has had her pay increased to \$2900 per year and only visits the office occasionally.

26. That Mr. Harris mails his pay-checks to a bank in Staunton, Va. and deposits at the Riggs Bank in Washington, cash to the amount of at least \$1000 per month.

27. That several people are drawing salaries from Archives who do not work there. Several are only seen in the building on pay-day.

Mrs. Wolfe (sweetheart of Cong. Woodrum) is listed as chief file clerk at a salary of \$2900. She stays away from the office for weeks at a time but is never listed as absent and draws full pay.

Miss Reeves is seldom there except on pay-days. She is assistant director of personnel and draws \$2900.

Miss Healey is used as a decoy for men from whom the executives want favors. She draws \$2900 and is seldom at the office.

A man named Goetz - a white messenger at \$1280- is on the salary list but does not work there. No one knows him.

28. When Archives arrive at the building from other departments of the government, Mr. Bledsoe is the only one who receives them, and no check is made of those that are received or is any list made to compare with those which Mr. Owen of the Accessions section has ordered shipped to the building.

29. On several occasions bundles wrapped at the Archives building have been handed to me to place in Mr. Harris' car. I have noticed each time that a guard watches me from the time I leave the building until they are placed in the car. Then Mr. Harris drives away. I do not know where these packages go or what they contain, but they are carefully wrapped and seem to be of value.

30. In the photostst room strangers who are not on the Archives payroll are working on private work. This is carried on at night as well as in the daytime. Some of the people doing this work have been identified as former proprietors of a private studio which is no longer in business in this city. The work which is being done is for their customers.

31. That I am frequently sent out to purchase whiskey for Dr. Connor, Miss Reeves, Mr. Harris and others. I buy whiskey for them and bring it to them in the building. It is consumed by them in the building and it is a common occurrence for various ones of the staff to become intoxicated during office hours.

32. That on Tuesday, April 7, I found Miss Reeves in the nurse's room in an intoxicated condition. The nurse was off duty. Dr. Connor ordered me to go out and bring in a luncheon and take it to Miss Reeves in the nurse's room. Yesterday Miss Reeves asked me to buy her a pint of whiskey. This she locked in her desk when

I brought it to her. Today the empty flask was in the waste basket of her own room.

These are only a part of the irregularities which are constantly being carried on in the National Archives.

Everything that I have related I know to be true of my own knowledge and none of it is hearsay. It can be supplemented by other witnesses.

In witness of the above, I set my hand and seal this 8th day of April, 1936.

Frank Van Hook

City of Washington,)
District of Columbia)

On this 8th day of April, 1936,

Before me

Edw. H. Gonyea

a Notary Public

in and for the City of Washington, District of Columbia, appeared Frank Van Hook known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year in this certificate first above written.

Edw. H. Gonyea

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/1

TO: ☐ Director
☐ Tolson
☐ Edwards
☒ Clegg
☒ Tamm
☐ Quinn
☐ Egan

☐ Files Section ☐ Identification Division
☐ Personnel Files ☐ Statistical Section
☐ Mechanical Section ☐ Technical Laboratory
☐ Chief Clerk's Office ☐ Field Office

☐ M _____
☐ Miss Gandy
☐ Secretary

☐ Correct
☐ Re-write
☐ Re-date
☐ See me
☐ Send file
☐ Note and return

Has the Gen been
told we are not doing
anything on this?
J

HAROLD NATHAN,
 Room 5638.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

EAT:TMF

June 15, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

With reference to the attached memorandum addressed to the Director pertaining to a contact with Senator Barkley concerning an affidavit executed by Frank Van Hook, for record purposes it is stated that this affidavit was returned personally to Senator Barkley by Agent Loeb, who advised the Senator that there was no action which the Bureau could take in such a situation.

E. A. Tamm

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 22 1936

62-44327-1	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 19 1936 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILED	FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

July 1, 1936.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Joseph	✓
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Time - 2:00 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I telephoned Mr. Page of the National Archives with reference to his call to Mr. Tolson during Mr. Tolson's absence from his office concerning the services of a handwriting expert in connection with some matter pending in his office, inquiring of Mr. Page as to what it was all about.

It developed that Mr. Page was inquiring relative to the affidavit which was submitted by one of the colored messengers of the Archives relative to certain irregular conduct on the part of Senator Barkley and others, and of certain illicit relations by those gentlemen with the ladies of their respective offices and of the National Archives. You will recall that this matter was submitted to the Bureau, and it was decided that we had no jurisdiction to make an investigation. Mr. Page said that since that time, they have conferred with various Governmental investigating agencies about the matter, none of which had any jurisdiction. He continued that the question has now resolved itself into one of handwriting, and he was calling Mr. Tolson for the purpose of seeing if he could borrow one of the handwriting experts of this Bureau for an hour or so to give him some advice or possibly conduct an examination. Since the time of his call to Mr. Tolson, he said he had gotten in touch with the Metropolitan Police Department, who kindly consented to send their handwriting expert over, who is going to take care of the matter for him.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUL 10 1936

62-44327-2

JUL 7 1936

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
EDWARDS
LAB.
TWO
FILE

MR. PAGE, Nat'l Archives, Dist. 0525, Ext. 340, was told you were out at the moment. He said some weeks ago Sen. Barkley submitted to the FBI a certain matter which the FBI for some reason decided they had no jurisdiction over. As a result they had to handle it themselves (Archives) and "it's come down now to a question of handwriting." He wants to ask you if you have some man who is an expert on handwriting that he could have for about an hour or so.

I told him I'd have you phone him.

Mr. Page stated he knew you when he was working with Senator Bailey.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

WJMcN:FL

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington, D. C.

December 7, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN.

In accordance with a request received from your office, I interviewed yesterday Mr. Allen F. Jones, Chief of the Division of Personnel and Pay Roll, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Jones informed that in his capacity as Chief of the Division of Personnel he was conducting an investigation of one Mrs. Edna F. Hamas who, at the present time, is Secretary to the Chief of the Photographic and Reproduction Section of the Archives. He stated briefly that Mrs. Hamas is a "trouble-maker", and that in connection with his investigation of her he had ascertained that a letter had been written to one Hereford T. Cowling, who formerly resided at 4500 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., and who now is residing at 808 South Ode Street, Arlington, Virginia. He believes that this letter was in reality written by Mrs. Hamas. He stated that Hereford T. Cowling was a former employee of the National Archives and that several months ago, because his work was not satisfactory, he had been given an opportunity to resign.

Mr. Jones was informed that inasmuch as this was an official investigation, should he make a written request, in his official capacity, the Federal Bureau of Investigation would be glad to process the letter written to Cowling for latent fingerprints, and compare any fingerprints developed therein with the finger impressions of Mrs. Edna Fox Hamas, #FBI-1398958.

According to the records in the Identification Division, Mrs. Edna Fox Hamas, #FBI-1398958, was first fingerprinted in June, 1934, when she made application for the position of Junior Stenographer, Department - General Accounting Office, Washington, D. C., and again in October, 1937, when she made application for the position of Clerk-Stenographer, Department - The National Archives, Washington, D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

These two fingerprint cards are attached hereto, together with the above-mentioned letter addressed to Hereford T. Cowling. The letter from Mr. Jones regarding the above matter also is attached.

Respectfully,
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

W. J. McNulty
W. J. McNulty.

IDENT. DIV.
SRS. DIV.

*Letter to Mrs. Cowling
12/8/37
L. J. 7: 1937*



DIVISION OF
PERSONNEL AND PAY ROLL

The National Archives

Washington, D. C.

December 7, 1937

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Identification Division

Mr. McMully

Dear Sir:

In keeping with our conversation over the telephone this morning with regard to the processing of the latent finger prints on the anonymous letter addressed to Mr. Cowling and compared with finger prints of Mrs. Edna F. Hamas on file in your office, this processing of the latent finger prints and comparison with finger prints in your office of Mrs. Hamas is hereby requested for use officially by The National Archives in connection with an administrative matter about which you were informed yesterday.

If you will extend us this favor it will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Allen F. Jones
Allen F. Jones
Chief, Division of
Personnel and Pay Roll

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&
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62-44327-3
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 8 1937
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*7 follow
anonymous communication*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

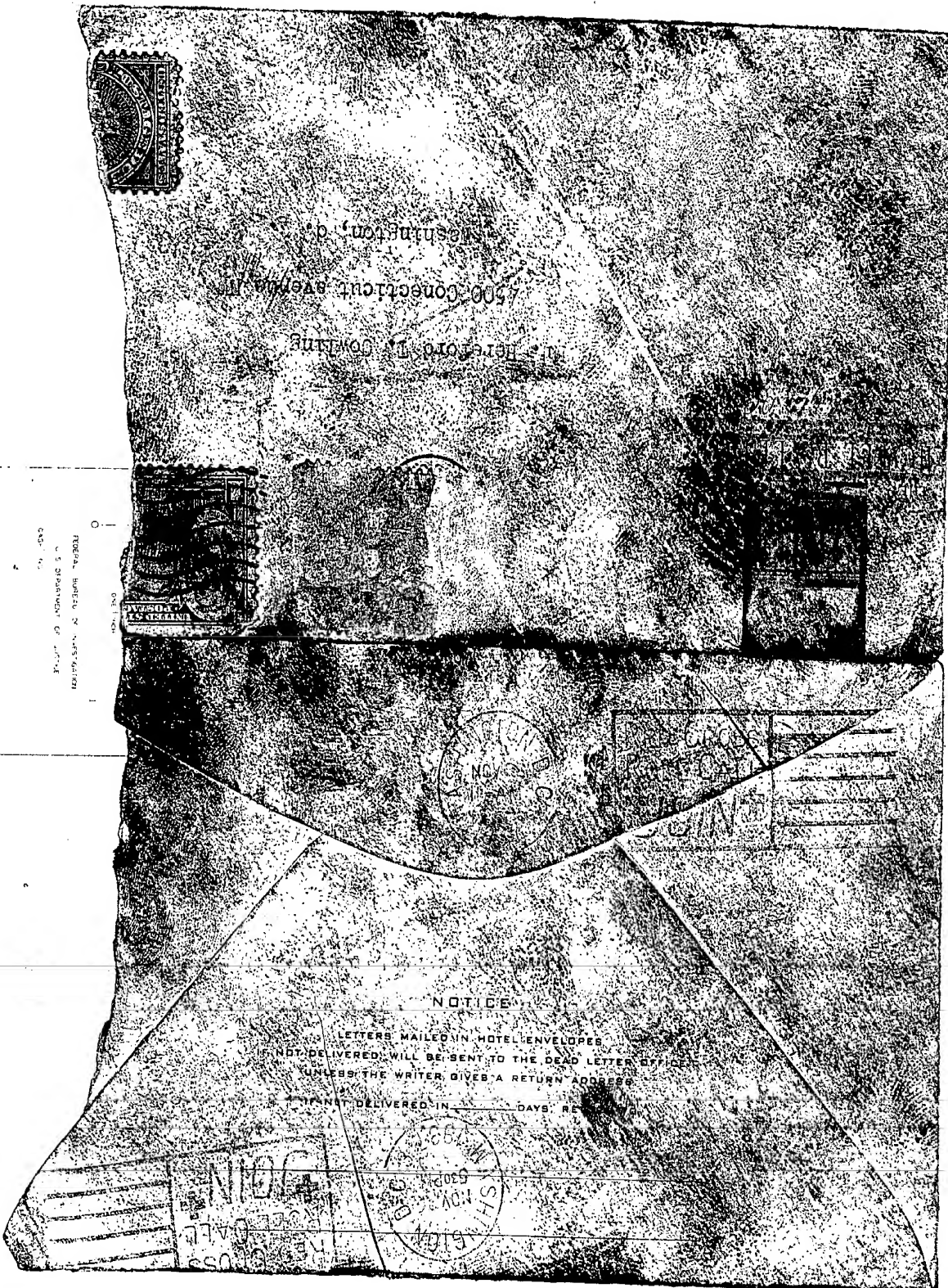
a.7 Jones

62-414327-3

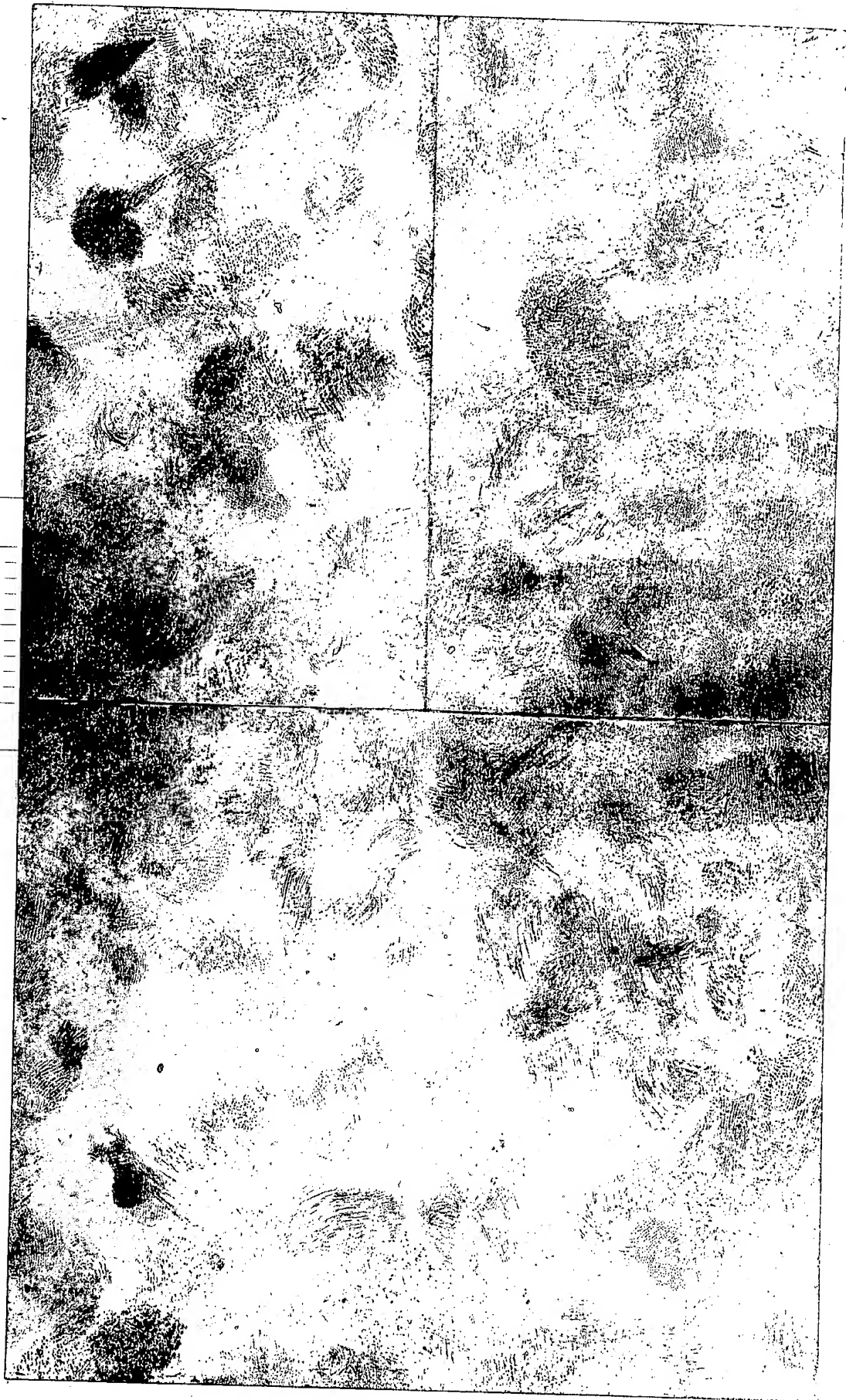


ENCLOSURE

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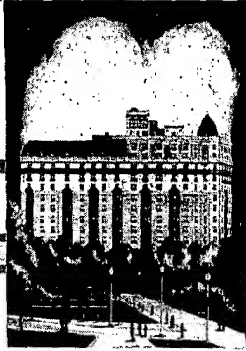
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO

ONE INCH

GENERAL MANAGER
C.C. SCHIFFELER



The HOTEL RALEIGH

ON FAMOUS PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT 12TH ST.

Washington, D.C.

November 21, 1937

Dear Captain Cowling -

Now is the time for you to get in touch with some of the investigating committees on the hill -- Senator Ellender of Louisiana for one is seeking to clean up on a bit of filth and corruption -- and let them know about what has gone on, is going on, and will continue to go on if not stopped at THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. You must be aware of the person who caused ^{you} to lose out there. Baudu dictated the confidential memorandum and Tait signed it. You will find out that this latter party has thrown sticks in your paths every place you have tried to make a connection since you left Archives, at the Documentation Institute, with Balsley in New York. But he is still going strong at the Archives... perhaps it is like Jones puts it "he knows whose hand to grease" and I should know as Tait got him in even with the quote from Maryland over the top in spite of the fact that Howard brags about setting on top now that he got by the classification the man from civil service put thru even if he stood in fear of their checking with a former application he had filed with that commission which he said was so full of lies that he could never take a regular examination. Those seem to be the people who get on fine at Archives. All this in spite of the fact that application blanks state applicants are selected for fitness. You know there are others still in Archives better suited for not only Tait's job but some others as well so even if you are interested in getting back yourself you can help others as well as help yourself make a good connection, which you will be unable to do so long as Tait is nacking you at every turn. You might check his interests with International filmbook, believe he is a stockholder and trying to become a director at the expense of the government; also his connection with the ALA in Chicago. I have been noticing him of late and he spends his time either for the ALA teaching people on government time how to use the camera or writing letters instead of official duties he is playing ball with Dick... Agf.

ONE INCH
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM
SINGLE FINGERPRINT SECTIONDATE 12-9 1937

TO: _____ Mr. Nathan	_____ Mr. Potter
_____ Mr. Schilder	_____ Miss Pyles
_____ Mr. Coffey	_____ Mr. Syphers
_____ Mr. Renneberger	_____ Mr. Upton
_____ Mr. Singman	_____ Mrs. Withers
_____ Mr. Burgess	_____ Assembly
_____ Mr. H. M. Clegg	_____ Card Index
_____ Mr. Fallon	_____ Chief Clerk
_____ Mr. Feehan	✓ _____ Files Section
_____ Mr. Gould	_____ Laboratory
_____ Mr. M. C. Hoover	_____ Messenger
_____ Mr. J. Kleinkauf	_____ Posting Section
_____ Mr. Knowles	_____ Recording Section
_____ Mr. Murphy	_____ Technical Section
_____ Miss Muther	_____ Typing Section
_____ Mr. Peterson	_____ Mr.

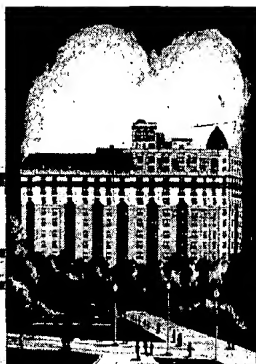
See Me _____

Please Handle _____

Make Index Cards _____

G. J. ENGERT

GENERAL MANAGER
C.C.SCHIFFELER



The
HOTEL RALEIGH

ON FAMOUS PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT 12TH ST

Washington, D.C.

November 21, 1937

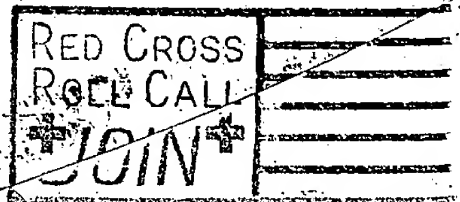
Dear Captain Cowling -

Now is the time for you to get in touch with some of the investigating committees on the hill -- Senator Ellender of Louisiana for one is seeking to clean up on a bit of filth and corruption -- and let them know about what has gone on, is going on, and will continue to go on if not stopped at THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. You must be aware of the person who caused ^{you} to lose out there. Baudu dictated the confidential memorandum and Tait signed it. You will find out that this latter party has thrown sticks in your paths every place you have tried to make a connection since you left Archives, at the Documentation institute, with Balsley in New York. But he is still going strong at the Archives...perhaps it is like Homes puts it "he knows whose hand to grease" and H should know as Tait got him in even with the quota from Maryland over the top in spite of the fact that Homes brags about setting on top now that he got by the classification the man from civil service put thru even if he stood in fear of their checking with a former application he had filed with that commissiom which he said was so full of lies that he could never take a regular examination. Those seem to be the people who get on fine at Archives. All this in spite of the fact that application blanks state applicants are selected for fitness. You know there are others still in Archives better suited for not only Tait's job but some others as well so even if you are interested in getting back yourself you can help others as well as help yourself make a good connection, which you will be unable to do so long as Tait is nacking you at every turn. You might check his interests with International filmbook, believe he is a stockholder and trying to become a director at the expense of the government; also his connection with the ALA in Chicago. I have been noticing him of late and he spends his time either for the ALA teaching people on government time how to use the camera or writing letters instead of official duties he is playing ball with Dickerson of Agfa

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO.

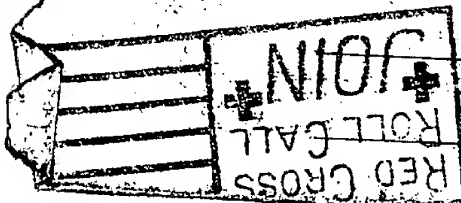
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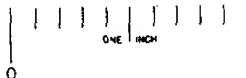
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO.



NOTICE

LETTERS MAILED IN HOTEL ENVELOPES
IF NOT DELIVERED, WILL BE SENT TO THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE
UNLESS THE WRITER GIVES A RETURN ADDRESS.
IF NOT DELIVERED IN _____ DAYS, RETURN TO

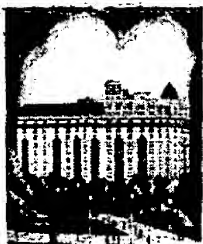




FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CASE NO.



THE

HOTEL RALEIGH

ON FAMOUS PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT 12TH ST.

Washington, D.C.



Mr. Hereford T. Cowling

4500 Conecticut avenue NW

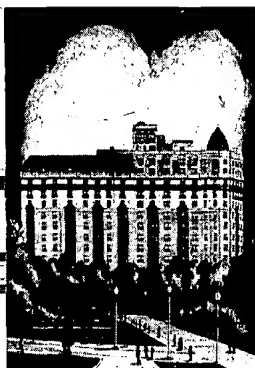
Washington, d. c.

Postage Due 1

808 S 01e - 2
Arlington



GENERAL MANAGER
C.C. SCHIFFELER



The HOTEL RALEIGH

ON FAMOUS PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT 12TH ST.

Washington, D.C.

November 21, 1937

Dear Captain Cowling -

Now is the time for you to get in touch with some of the investigating committees on the hill -- Senator Ellender of Louisiana for one is seeking to clean up on a lot of filth and corruption -- and let them know about what has gone on, is going on, and will continue to go on if not stopped at THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. You must be aware of the person who caused ^{you} to lose out there. Baudu dictated the confidential memorandum and Tait signed it. You will find out that this latter party has thrown sticks in your paths every place you have tried to make a connection since you left Archives, at the Documentation institute, with Balsley in New York. But he is still going strong at the Archives...perhaps it is like Homes puts it "he knows whose hand to grease" and H should know as Tait got him in even with the quota from Maryland over the top in spite of the fact that Homes brags about setting on top now that he got by the classification the man from civil service put thru even if he stood in fear of their checking with a former application he had filed with that commission which he said was so full of lies that he could never take a regular examination. Those seem to be the people who get on fine at Archives. All this in spite of the fact that application blanks state applicants are selected for fitness. You know there are others still in Archives better suited for not only Tait's job but some others as well so even if you are interested in getting back yourself you can help others as well as help yourself make a good connection, which you will be unable to do so long as Tait is nacking you at every turn. You might check his interests with International filmbook, believe he is a stockholder and trying to become a director at the expense of the government; also his connection with the ALA in Chicago. I have been noticing him of late and he spends his time either for the ALA teaching people on government time how to use the camera or writing letters instead of official duties he is playing ball with Dickerson of Agfa

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO.

44327-3

RECORDED

62-44327-3

LJE:JEM

32-19717-32

December 8, 1937.

Mr. Allen F. Jones,
Chief,
Division of Personnel and Pay Roll,
The National Archives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

Reference is made to your letter of December 7, 1937, transmitting an original anonymous letter addressed to one Mr. Cowling and accompanying envelope, and requesting that they be examined for latent fingerprints. It was further requested that any latent impressions developed be compared with the fingerprints of Mrs. Edna F. Hamas, a Civil Service employee, in connection with an administrative matter being investigated by your office.

The material submitted has been examined and six latent impressions of value were developed on the original letter. These impressions have been compared with the fingerprints of Mrs. Edna Fox Hamas, #FBI-1398958, who was reinstated as a clerk-stenographer in The National Archives, Washington, D. C., but no identification could be effected.

This report is furnished for your confidential information.

The original evidence is being returned herewith by special messenger, photographic copies of the latent impressions having been made for the completion of the Bureau's files.

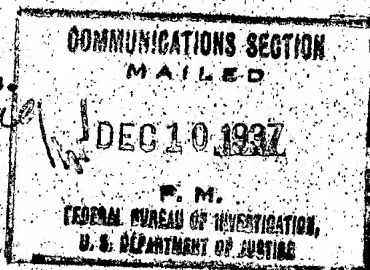
Assuring you of my desire to be of assistance in these matters, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hottel
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Naughten
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosures.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6960

(Recorded 12-8-37 9:00 A.M.)

Single Fingerprint Report

Case: Re: Anonymous letter
addressed to Mr. Cowling.

Number: ~~22-19717-52~~

62-44327-3

Specimens:

One page anonymous letter and envelope to be examined
for latent fingerprints.

Requested that the fingerprints of Mrs. Edna F. Hamas
be compared with the latents developed in this case.

b6
b7C

Examination requested by: Division of Personnel and Pay Roll, The National
Archives, Washington, D. C.

Date received: chp Dec. 8, 1937.

Examination requested: Fingerprint - Chemical Development

Result of examination: Examination by:

6 on letter.
② " env.

Rec'd serial 12/8/37 JBY

Ret evidence for special messenger.

Dist. 12-8-37
JB.

Ans. 12/8/37
JBY

4

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington Field Division, Room 2266,
Washington, D. C.

January 24, 1938.

ag
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: TECHNICAL LABORATORY.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Collas G. Harris, Executive Officer of the National Archives, Washington, D. C., called at this office and submitted the following exhibits:

Photostatic copy of a letter dated November 21, 1937, beginning "Dear Captain Cowling".

A letter dated March 22, 1937, addressed to Dr. R. W. D. Connor, The National Archives, Washington, D. C., beginning "Dear Dr. Connor".

A letter dated January 18, 1938, addressed to Mr. R. D. W. Connor, Kennedy-Warren Apartments, Washington, D. C., beginning "My dear Mr. Connor".

Newspaper clippings pertaining to the removal from Lorton Reformatory of Charles Warring, Sam S. Montgomery and Joseph S. Barnes.

Mr. Harris stated he desired that these exhibits be processed for latent fingerprints and should any fingerprints be developed, he would submit certain fingerprints for elimination purposes. He also requested that the typewritten letters be compared with the attached known typewriter specimens marked A, B and C, for the purpose of ascertaining if they were written on the same typewriter.

Mr. Harris desired that the examination be given the earliest possible attention in view of the fact that certain administrative changes are pending.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Very truly yours,

GOY BOTTEL,
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 25 1938

PW:AM
Encls.

COPIES DESTROYED

30 OCT 14 1964

COPY DETACHED IN S. F. E. S. 1/25/38 Blackburn Jps

Ward 1-28-38
Jsgm

✓

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington Field Division, Room 2266,
Washington, D. C.

April 8, 1938.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Attention: TECHNICAL LABORATORY.

Re: ¹⁰NATIONAL ARCHIVES,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of the following exhibits from Mr. Collas G. Harris, Executive Officer of the National Archives, Washington, D. C.:

1. Oath of office dated July 24, 1935.
2. Oath of office dated October 1, 1935.
3. Personal history statement dated July 24, 1935.
4. The last page of a letter or memorandum signed by Edna F. Hamas, Secretary to Chief of the Division of Photographic Reproduction and Research.

It is noticed that the signature of Edna F. Hamas appears on all four of these exhibits. It is respectfully requested that the signatures appearing on Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 be compared with that appearing on Exhibit 4, to ascertain whether they were written by the same individual.

Mr. Harris has requested that if it is possible he would like to know the result of this examination by 4:30 today. Accordingly, I am sending this by special messenger to the Technical Laboratory and respectfully request that if same can be done, the results be telephonically given to me so that I can advise Mr. Harris today, if possible before 4:30 P.M.

It is requested that the above exhibits be returned to this office by messenger after they have served their purpose.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Enclosures.
GH:EB
95-5

Very truly yours,

GUY HOTTEL,
Special Agent in Charge.

APR 8 1938 A.M.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

o LATENT FINGERPRINTS

Copy and Specimens retained in Laboratory

Single - Rastiger 4/8/38

See 32-19717-32-43

Washington Field Division, Room 2266,
Washington, D. C.

April 13, 1938.

The Archivist,
National Archives,
Washington, D. C.

RE: NATIONAL ARCHIVES,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Harris.

Dear Sir:

This will confirm my telephonic conversation with
Mr. Harris on April 9, 1938 pertaining to the exhibits received
by him which are as indicated:

The last page of a letter or memorandum signed
by Edna F. Hamas, Secretary of Chief of the
Division of Photographic Reproduction and Re-
search, and

The known handwriting of Edna F. Hamas described
as follows:

- One oath of office dated
July 24, 1935.
- One oath of office dated
October 1, 1935.
- One personal history statement
dated July 24, 1935.

For your information, the Technical Laboratory of this
Bureau made an examination of the above and the conclusion was
reached that the questioned signature was written by Edna F. Hamas.

Pursuant to your request, the original evidence was re-
turned to your Department by special messenger.

Very truly yours,

INDEXED

GUY HONTE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Special Agent in Charge.

APR 15 1938 A. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

PW:MBL

95-5.

cc-Bureau.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#

22453

GWD:EG

Laboratory Report

Case:

April 14, 1938.

Number:

32-19717-53

○ National Archives,
Washington, D. C.

Specimens:

- Q19. The last page of a letter or memorandum signed by Edna F. Hamas, Secretary of Chief of the Division of Photographic Reproduction and Research.
- K6. The known handwriting of Edna F. Hamas described as follows:
One oath of office dated July 24, 1935.
One oath of office dated October 1, 1935
One personal history statement dated July 24, 1935

Examination requested by:

Washington

Date received:

4/8/38

Examination requested:

Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

Based on a comparison of the signature "Edna F. Hamas" appearing on specimen Q19 with the known handwriting of Edna F. Hamas designated as specimen K6, the conclusion has been reached that the questioned signature was written by Edna F. Hamas.

In accordance with your request the original evidence designated as Q19 and K6, was returned to your office on April 9, 1938 by special messenger, photographic copies having been made for the completion of the Bureau's files.

- 1 - Bureau
1 - Washington
1 - Laboratory

RECORDED
&
INDEXED.

L-7

62-44327-6	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 15 1938 P. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
LAB	FILE

b6
b7C

○ LATENT FINGERPRINTS

GWD:EG

62-44327-6

April 14, 1938.

RECORDED

~~32-19712-57~~

Special Agent in Charge,
Washington, D. C.

Re: National Archives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau

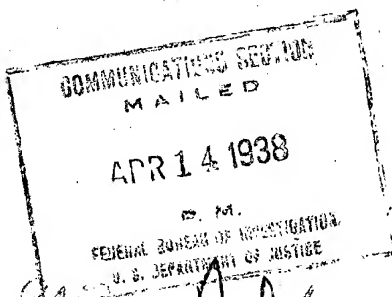
April 8, 1938.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure:



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

WRG:atw

Date May 4, 1938

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

By reference from the Director's Office, I spoke to Mrs. Margaret Hopkins Worrell, National Legislative Chairman for the Ladies of the D.A.R. Mrs. Worrell was accompanied by a Miss Hamre, who recently was dismissed from a position in the Archives. She stated that Miss Hamre had been unfairly treated in the Archives in that she had furnished certain information to representatives of the Department of Justice who were making an investigation of the Archives' service and that she had been advised by the agent interviewing her, one, R. R. Carroll that she should say nothing to anybody concerning any statements she made to representatives of the Department of Justice. It was ascertained that there is no R. R. Carroll in this service. I was further advised by Mrs. Worrell that Miss Hamre had interviewed Special Agent [redacted] in the Washington Field Office recently who presumably advised her that the FBI had made an investigation of the Archives' service.

Inasmuch as this appeared to be a field office matter, Mrs. Worrell was referred to Mr. Hottel and the Washington Field Office was called by me, suggesting that these ladies be given courteous attention.

Respectfully,

W. A. Glavin
W. A. Glavin.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-44327-6x	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 7 1938 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

Signature

Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Baughman _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hottel _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Naughten _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Schilder _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

b6
b7c

62-44327

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington Field Division, Room 2266,
Washington, D. C.

May 5, 1938

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

9
MRS. MARGARET HOPKINS WORRELL, East Clifton Terrace, and
MRS. EDNA F. HAMIS, 134 Tennessee Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C.
came to the Washington Field Division on May 4, 1938 at the instance
of Assistant Director W. R. GLAVIN, and requested that investigation
be made for the purpose of securing the reinstatement of MRS. HAMIS
to her former position of Assistant Clerk and Stenographer in the
Division of Photographic Reproduction and Research at the NATIONAL
ARCHIVES, Washington, D. C.

MRS. WORRELL stated that she is President of the Columbia
Heights Citizens Association and National Legislative Chairman of
the P.A.R., and has been very much interested in the welfare of
Government employees.

MRS. WORRELL stated that some time in May 1936 an investi-
gation was conducted at the NATIONAL ARCHIVES as to certain irregu-
larities in the administrative affairs of this Governmental agency.
She stated that this investigation concerned CALLAS G. HARRIS, Ex-
ecutive Officer, FRANK P. WILSON, brother-in-law of MR. HARRIS who
was Chief of the Purchases and Supplies Division, CARL G. SCHIFFLETTE,
Chief of Messengers, and FRANK T. VAN HOOK, a messenger.

MRS. WORRELL further stated that she was interested in the
case of MRS. HAMIS and requested that some steps be taken by the Wash-
ington Field Division to assist MRS. HAMIS in the return to her former
position.

MRS. HAMIS stated that during the above-mentioned investiga-
tion, she had given a statement to one R. R. CARROLL who she believed
was an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to one WALTER
N. CRAWFORD, who was employed by the General Accounting Office in its
investigative unit, as to certain administrative irregularities in the
NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

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62-44327-7	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 6 1938	P. M.
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JUL 1 1938	

MRS. HAMIS stated that some time in the early part of April FRANK T. VAN HOOK, who has been mentioned above, sent a note to her residence and requested that she advance him \$10.00 as a loan and that he would be able to get the statement which she had made to the investigators at that time.

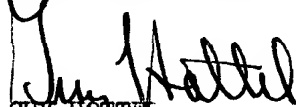
MRS. HAMIS stated that on April 14, 1938 she was advised by MR. HARRIS by letter that her services were terminated with the NATIONAL ARCHIVES and she has assumed that the reason for her dismissal is because of the statement which she had made to the investigators during the course of the investigation above referred to.

MRS. HAMIS was advised that the Washington Field Office of the Bureau had conducted no investigation at the NATIONAL ARCHIVES, and that if any investigation had been made by the Bureau, it would have been in the nature of a laboratory examination of handwriting at the request of the NATIONAL ARCHIVES, and that the original documents would have been returned to that agency. She was further advised that R. R. CARROLL could not be identified as an Agent of the Washington Field Division and that she may have misunderstood his exact official connection with the investigation. She was further advised that the matter in any event was an administrative matter over which the Bureau had no jurisdiction and that any request on her part for reinstatement to her position, should be made to the NATIONAL ARCHIVIST, MR. R. D. W. CONNOR.

b6
b7C

MRS. HAMIS stated that she had previously discussed this matter with Special Agent [redacted] but was unable to recall specifically the extent of her conversation with him.

Very truly yours,



GUY HOTTEL,
Special Agent in Charge.

CEB:JG
95-5

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington Field Division, Room 2266,
Washington, D. C.

May 28, 1938.

ag
X
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: IRREGULARITIES - NATIONAL ARCHIVES,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

MISS EDNA P. HAMAS, 134 Tennessee Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C., called at the Washington Field Office on April 21, 1938, to report that she had been dismissed from the service of the National Archives on the preceding day as the result of a statement which she had furnished to a "CAPTAIN CARROLL" of the Department of Justice and to WALTER N. CRAWFORD of the General Accounting Office, relative to irregularities observed by her during the period of her employment in the National Archives. She stated that the statement had been furnished by her approximately one year ago and it was only recently brought to her attention by DR. HARRIS, who is the Chief Administrative Officer of the National Archives. DR. HARRIS informed her that the statement submitted by her had been sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation where an examination was made of the signature appearing on the statement and that it was found to be identical with signatures contained in her personnel file. MISS HAMAS stated that DR. HARRIS refused to furnish her with a copy of the statement alleged to have been made by her.

W
She requested that a check be made of the Bureau files for the purpose of determining whether an examination was made of the documents as reported by DR. HARRIS. She was informed that this information could not be furnished to her even in the event such an examination had been made at the request of the officials of the National Archives. MISS HAMAS stated that she did make a statement concerning irregularities observed by her and that the statement was made at the instance of MRS. BURNICE B. SMALL who was one of the administrative chiefs of the National Archives at the time, but who is now confined as a patient in a public ward at the Garfield Hospital.

COPIES DESTROYED
30 OCT 14 1964

Carroll is an
Employee of GAO.
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RECORDED
&
INDEXED
JH

62-44327-8	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 31 1938 P. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

MISS HAMAS stated that she has enlisted the services in her behalf of MRS. MARGARET HOPKINS ~~WORRELL~~ of the Clifton Terrace Apartments, who is active in the American League of Civil Service Workers.

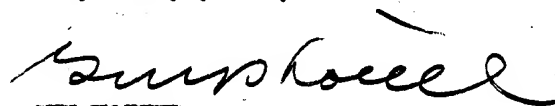
With reference to CAPTAIN CARROLL, who posed as a Department of Justice representative, MISS HAMAS could not furnish any positive information as to his identity, but described him as approximately 45 years of age; 5' 6" in height; 145 pounds; slender build, and possessing an artificial left hand. He remarked at the time that he was from California and was a friend of MRS. FLORENCE ~~SHREVES~~ of the Westchester Apartments.

One of the grievances mentioned by MISS HAMAS was the fact that MARY E. ~~HEALEY~~, secretary to DR. HARRIS, was present in the home of one of the ~~WARRING~~ brothers, notorious gamblers, at 5711 Kansas Avenue, at the time of a raid on August 31, 1936. She stated that it is common knowledge that MARY HEALEY is very friendly with one of the WARRING brothers.

Shortly before her dismissal from the National Archives one of the colored messengers, FRANK T. ~~VAN HOOK~~, called at her home on March 29 or 30, 1938, and offered to obtain her statement which she had previously made, for the sum of ten dollars. She refused to comply with the request of the messenger and shortly thereafter this statement was exhibited to her in the office of DR. HARRIS.

This appears to be a personnel matter of the National Archives and no further action is being taken by this office in the matter.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL,
Special Agent in Charge.

REN:EB
95-5

9 to 4:30

An Ideal Detective Yarn Offered in 'Hamus Case'

By ALFRED FRIENDLY

The inside story of the "Hamus case" lacks only a couple of international spies to make it one of E. Phillips Oppenheim's detective yarns. It has all the other trimmings—intrigue, double crossing, pilfered documents, extortion attempts and mysterious investigators masquerading as Government sleuths.

"L'affaire Hamus," as it will be recalled, revolves around Mrs. Edna Fox Hamus, a secretarial employe dismissed from the National Archives. Her cause is currently being championed by E. Claude Babcock, Federal Personnel Association president. According to the story presented by Mr. Babcock in



Friendly

the last issue of his magazine, "The Echo," Mrs. Hamus was dismissed by Collas G. Harris, Archives executive officer, on the basis of a statement concerning conditions in the Archives, which Mrs. Hamus wrote for investigators from the G. A. O.

Mrs. Hamus alleges that after

submitting the statement to another Archives employe, whom she believed represented the G. A. O. in the investigation, a former Archives messenger solicited money from her, hinting that if it were not forthcoming, the statement might find its way to "wrong parties" where it might produce "unpleasant circumstances."

REFUSED DEMAND

Mrs. Hamus refused to give the messenger money. Shortly thereafter she was called into Mr. Harris' office, confronted with the document, and discharged.

Despite Archives' denial, Mr. Babcock alleges that there was an investigation of Archives by the G. A. O., that Mrs. Hamus should not have been dismissed for co-operation with the investigating agency, that her letter of reference from Mr. Harris indicated that her work performance was excellent. He also avers that Mrs. Hamus has been blacklisted at other agencies where she sought work. A 15-point statement presented by Mr. Babcock to Mr. Harris was never answered in writing, he claims.

The facts are as follows: A disgruntled applicant for a high Archives post, being refused the job, sought to "smear" the organization and succeeded in organizing a relatively large cabal of employes. That cabal, incidentally, is a story in itself, replete with anonymous letters and mysterious meetings.

Working for the applicant was a clerk in the AAA, who had formerly acted as investigator and press agent for the ringleader. He represented himself to Mrs. Hamus as a Justice Department investigator, in a fictitious "G. A. O. investigation." He has since skipped town, to the Justice Department's intense chagrin.

The most charitable explanation of Mrs. Hamus' connection with the group is that she accepted the "investigator" at his face value, and prepared a statement of Archives conditions for him, thus passing into the intriguers' hands, supplying them with "smear" ammunition.

ARCHIVES GETS DOPE

This statement, in the hands of one of the intriguers, somehow or other fell into the ex-messenger's hands. Failing to get money from Mrs. Hamus, or else because he had a change of heart, he turned the statement over to Archives officials.

Mr. Harris makes no bones about the fact that he dismissed Mrs. Hamus because of the statement, which he considers adequate cause. It contains, he alleges, misstatements and misrepresentations as well as slaps at the Archives Administration which under no conditions would be germane to a report to the G. A. O.

Mr. Harris' answers to Mr. Babcock's 15 points were made available to local papers, and, Mr. Harris said, were read to Mr. Babcock and offered to him in writing should he request them.

Mr. Harris denies that there is anything damaging in Mrs. Hamus' personnel folder and declares that no form of blacklist has been indulged in.

WHERE HARRIS ERRED

Mr. Harris' mistake, it would seem, was his complimentary letter of reference to Mrs. Hamus, given after her dismissal. If she were fired for reason, a glowing reference is a contradiction. It is probable, however, that Mr. Harris had no desire to deprive Mrs. Hamus of other work, and erred on the side of kindness.

It seems unfair to spoil such a bizarre story, which has other lurid angles, by appending a moral to it. But the temptation is irresistible. The moral is that nasty personnel messes, engendered by disappointed office seekers and fanned by disgruntled employes who feel they have been denied justified raises and promotions, happen all too often in patronage organizations, and only rarely in Civil Service offices.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Crowl	✓
Mr. Dawsey	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. McIntire	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

a

62-44327-A-

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

SJD:JDiF
62-44327

February 8, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: CONGRESSMAN C. A. WOODRUM
Roanoke, Virginia.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-44327-9

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. McIntire	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

For your information, a check of the Bureau's files indicates that on May 22, 1936, Congressman Woodrum called the Bureau and requested an Agent contact Senator Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, concerning a situation which the Congressman and Senator believed was in violation of some existing statute. In accordance with his request Agent Loeb contacted Senator Barkley and obtained an affidavit executed by Frank Van Hook, colored, a messenger employed by the National Archives.

In the affidavit which is dated April 8, 1936, at Washington, D. C., Van Hook made allegations relative to irregular conduct on the part of Senator Bailey, North Carolina, Democrat, Congressman Woodrum, and others who were officials of the National Archives. Van Hook alleged that during the months of February and March, 1935, on at least a dozen occasions, he was required at extremely early hours to report at the office of Mr. Harris, an employee of the National Archives, which office was then in the Justice Building; there Van Hook would receive a sealed package which he would take to the office of Congressman Woodrum and deliver to him before 6 A. M. (no allegation was made concerning the contents of the package). Van Hook alleged that during these months Congressman Woodrum spent a great part of every day at the office of Archives in the Justice Building, and that all matters of personnel were handled in Archives by Mr. Harris under the direction of Congressman Woodrum. The persons eligible for consideration for position in Archives had to furnish endorsements from either Senator Bailey or Congressman Woodrum and White House endorsements were laughed at and ignored. Van Hook further alleged that conversations were carried on in his presence indicating that Senator Bailey and Congressman Woodrum manipulated appointments in Archives for the purpose of building political strength for themselves; that Senator Bailey was working through Dr. Connor, an employee of National Archives, and Congressman Woodrum was working through Mr. Harris. Each had hopes of building up sufficient strength to be the "dark horse" candidate against President Roosevelt in the 1936 Convention. Van Hook also made the statement that any Senator or Congressman who refused to vote as Senator Bailey or Congressman Woodrum desired could have no patronage in Archives. The affidavit submitted by Van Hook also alleged that several people were drawing salaries from archives who did not work there and were only seen in the building on payday. Van Hook alleged that one Mrs. Wolfe, who he described as the sweetheart of Congressman Woodrum, was listed as Chief File Clerk at the salary of \$2900, and that she stayed away from the office for weeks at a time, was never listed as absent, but drew full pay.

DE-INDEXED

DATE: 10-18-57

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Memo for the Director

- 2 -

2/8/39

A review of the affidavit failed to disclose information concerning a violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's investigative jurisdiction and subsequently the original affidavit was returned to Senator Barkley, who was advised that there was no action the Bureau could take in this matter. Agent Loeb1 ascertained at the time that Senator Barkley had originally obtained this affidavit from Senator Bailey.

Respectfully,



E. A. TAMM.

SJD:JDIF
62-44327

February 8, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: CONGRESSMAN C. A. WOODRUM
Roanoke, Virginia.

For your information, a check of the Bureau's files indicates that on May 22, 1936, Congressman Woodrum called the Bureau and requested an Agent contact Senator Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, concerning a situation which the Congressman and Senator believed was in violation of some existing statute. In accordance with his request Agent Loebl contacted Senator Barkley and obtained an affidavit executed by Frank Van Hook, colored, a messenger employed by the National Archives.

In the affidavit which is dated April 8, 1936, at Washington, D. C., Van Hook made allegations relative to irregular conduct on the part of Senator Bailey, North Carolina, Democrat, Congressman Woodrum, and others who were officials of the National Archives. Van Hook alleged that during the months of February and March, 1935, on at least a dozen occasions, he was required at extremely early hours to report at the office of Mr. Harris, an employee of the National Archives, which office was then in the Justice Building; there Van Hook would receive a sealed package which he would take to the office of Congressman Woodrum and deliver to him before 6 A. M. (no allegation was made concerning the contents of the package). Van Hook alleged that during these months Congressman Woodrum spent a great part of every day at the office of Archives in the Justice Building, and that all matters of personnel were handled in Archives by Mr. Harris under the direction of Congressman Woodrum. The persons eligible for consideration for position in Archives had to furnish endorsements from either Senator Bailey or Congressman Woodrum and White House endorsements were laughed at and ignored. Van Hook further alleged that conversations were carried on in his presence indicating that Senator Bailey and Congressman Woodrum manipulated appointments in Archives for the purpose of building political strength for themselves; that Senator Bailey was working through Dr. Connor, an employee of National Archives, and Congressman Woodrum was working through Mr. Harris. Each had hopes of building up sufficient strength to be the "dark horse" candidate against President Roosevelt in the 1936 Convention. Van Hook also made the statement that any Senator or Congressman who refused to vote as Senator Bailey or Congressman Woodrum desired could have no patronage in Archives. The affidavit submitted by Van Hook also alleged that several people were drawing salaries from archives who did not work there and were only seen in the building on payday. Van Hook alleged that one Mrs. Wolfe, who he described as the sweetheart of Congressman Woodrum, was listed as Chief File Clerk at the salary of \$2900, and that she stayed away from the office for weeks at a time, was never listed as absent, but drew full pay.

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Nathan

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Crowl

Mr. Egan

Mr. Foxworth

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Lester

Mr. McIntire

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Tracy

Miss Gandy

Memo for the Director

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A review of the affidavit failed to disclose information concerning a violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's investigative jurisdiction and subsequently the original affidavit was returned to Senator Barkley, who was advised that there was no action the Bureau could take in this matter. Agent Loebel ascertained at the time that Senator Barkley had originally obtained this affidavit from Senator Bailey.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.